GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:492
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
HELPING RURAL ARTISANS
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural artisans constitute an important segment of the rural economy and there is a need to equip them with new skills to compete in the market;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to upgrade the skills of rural artisans;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide the working capital to the rural artisans by the institutional sources to procure raw materials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Shaba Starred Question No.492 due for reply on 29.04.2005.

(a) & (b) The rural artisans with inherent skill who form a significant segment of the rural society are given due priority under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development as a self employment scheme for rural poor. Artisans eligible for coverage under the scheme can be provided training for skill development/upgradation by organising appropriate training programmes through reputed institutions like engineering colleges, polytechnics, NGOs etc. to enable them to compete in the market. The scheme also envisages provision of support for creation of infrastructure such as common facilities, design development, marketing support and development of market linkages etc.

To assist the artisans to market their products a large number of `SARAS` fairs and `Gram Shri` Melas have been organised by the Ministry and CAPART in different parts of the country.

(c) & (d) Under SGSY, financial assistance is provided to Swarozgaries for procurement of raw materials and for income generating activities through government subsidy and bank credit.